



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Permanent Council**

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**856th Plenary Meeting**

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**DECISION No. 994  
AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL  
MODALITIES OF THE 2011 HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR**

Warsaw, 18–20 May 2011

**The Role of Political Parties in the Political Process**

**I. Agenda**

1. Opening of the Seminar
2. Opening plenary: keynote addresses
3. Discussion in four working groups
4. Closing plenary: summing up and closing of the Seminar

**II. Timetable and other organizational modalities**

1. The Seminar will open on Wednesday, 18 May 2011 at 10 a.m. It will close on Friday, 20 May 2011 at 6 p.m.
2. All plenary sessions and working group sessions will be open to all participants.
3. The closing plenary session, scheduled for the afternoon of 20 May 2011, will focus on practical suggestions and recommendations for addressing the issues discussed during the working group sessions.
4. The plenary and working group sessions will take place in accordance with the work programme below.
5. A representative of the ODIHR will chair the plenary sessions.
6. The Rules of Procedure of the OSCE and the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues (Permanent Council Decision No. 476) will be followed,

*mutatis mutandis*, at the Seminar. Furthermore, the guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will also be taken into account.

7. The discussions during the plenary and working group sessions will be interpreted from and into the six working languages of the OSCE.

#### **Working group I: Political parties and the OSCE commitments**

- The central role of political parties in democracy, in promoting the collective exercise of rights to free association and expression and in facilitating political participation;
- OSCE commitments on political parties, in particular, but not only, regarding the right to establish political parties and organizations;
- Challenges to the implementation of OSCE commitments on political parties in participating States.

#### **Working group II: Equal participation of women and men in political parties**

- The role of political parties in providing equal access for both women and men to political life and to their participation therein;
- Increasing women's participation and representation through political party systems;
- Good practices, including measures and incentives both legal and voluntary, in promoting women's participation in political parties;
- Good practices in encouraging women to enter political life through political parties.

#### **Working group III: Regulations regarding political parties in national legislation**

- Parties as unique and vital elements in the electoral process and democratic governance, and the regulation of parties;
- National legal and regulatory frameworks on political parties and their impact on pluralism, equal representation, participation and transparency;
- Good practices in the regulation of political parties, including issues such as financing, registration, membership and territorial requirements.

#### **Working group IV: E-democracy: increasing participation and representation**

- New tools for citizen input into legislative and policy-making processes;
- E-tools for increasing internal party democracy;
- Impact of e-democracy on political campaigning;
- Strengthening transparency and accountability through e-tools;

- Increasing participation and visibility through e-tools.

### **Work programme**

Working hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
3–6 p.m.

	<b>Wednesday 18 May 2011</b>	<b>Thursday 19 May 2011</b>	<b>Friday 20 May 2011</b>
<b>Morning</b>	Opening plenary	Working group II	Working group IV
<b>Afternoon</b>	Working group I	Working group III	Closing plenary